

**ABSTRACT**

A remote controller includes a display screen (12) and a speaker (14). The remote controller receives and stores transmitted television program information, preferably including an electronic program guide (EPG). Preferably the program information is transmitted over a wireless paging system (Fig. 6) at a preferred frequency of about 900 MHz. A microcontroller (46) in the controller includes a digital signal processor for sorting and storing the retrieved program information. In response to a viewer command input through a keypad (15) on the remote controller, the microcontroller selectively retrieves and displays at least a portion of the program information on the display screen of the remote controller. The display changes as the viewer changes channels or scrolls through the EPG. The remote controller also has a voice message function. When the voice message function is activated, the microcontroller retrieves and processes a voice message for announcement through the speaker. The voice message corresponds to the television program currently displayed on an associated television system or a selected program in the EPG.

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